UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER
MORGAN, ROBERT W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3626	

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/675,407	ENGLISH, JASON R.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Robert W. Morgan	3626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12 August 2004*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-53* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-53* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

Notice to Applicant

1.   In amendment filed 8/12/04 the following has occurred: Claims 1, 6, 13, 17, 22, 29 and

30 have been amended and claims 31-53 have been added. Now claims 1-53 are presented for

examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 1-7, 10-14, 16-23, 26-36 and 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over US Patent Number 5,899,979 to Miller and US Patent Number 6,016,478 to

Zhang in view of US Patent Number 6,073,110 to Rhodes.

Miller is directed towards a method and system for automatically integrating scheduled

work items onto an electronic calendar.

As per claims 1, 13 and 29-30, which are directed towards application-driven scheduling

systems and software, Miller teaches a means to receive at least one schedule item and associated

time information from at least one application (Col. 2, Ln. 58-67; Col. 3, Ln. 20-48 and Figures

4-6), a means to generate the schedule containing the item (Col. 3, Ln. 49-61 and Figures 4-6)

and a rendering engine operable to render the schedule for display to at least one user or a

plurality of users (Col. 2, Ln. 10 – Col. 3, Ln. 15; Col. 3, Ln. 49-61 and Figures 4-6).

The electronic calendar of Miller fails to teach a means of determining whether the time

information comprising the required time period for the item satisfies the schedule criteria

comprising the time period schedule criterion by comparing at least the required time period for

the received item with the time period specified in the time period schedule criterion and a means

to determine a location for the item within a schedule according to the time information (if the

inputted time information satisfies the schedule criteria).

However, the above mentioned features are well-known in the art as evidenced by Zhang,

which teaches a means of determining whether the time information satisfies the schedule

criteria and determines a location for the item within a schedule according to the time

information (if the inputted information satisfies the schedule criteria) (Col. 67, Ln. 1-16). At

the time of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to add this

feature to the electronic calendar of Miller with the expectation of providing an electronic

calendar better suited for multiple individuals at different locations (Zhang, Col. 1, Ln. 14-18).

Miller and Zhang fail to explicitly teaches:

--the claimed access one or more schedule criteria comprising at least a time period

schedule criterion specifying a time period spanning a plurality of schedule time slots;

--the claimed if the time information comprising the required time period for the received

item satisfies the schedule criteria comprising the time period schedule criterion in that the

required time period for the received item falls within the time period specified in the time period

schedule criterion, attempt to determine a location for the item within a schedule according to the

information;

--the claimed if the time information comprising the required time period for the received

item does not satisfy the schedule criteria comprising the time period schedule criterion in that

the required time period for the received item falls outside the time period specified in the time

period schedule criterion, refrain from attempting to determine a location for the item within the schedule according to the information; and

--the claimed if the information comprising the required time period for the received item satisfies the schedule criteria at least in part by assigning the item to one of the plurality of time slots within the time period specified in the time period schedule criterion, the time slot having a duration equal to the duration for the item.

Rhodes teaches a computer based equipment scheduling system using activity data and zone data (see: column 3, lines 3-25). Rhodes further teaches that the system determines whether or not there is a conflict in the zone mode operation with another zone schedule at step 128 (see: column 9, lines 32-34). If the system determines that there is a conflict, the zone mode schedules are prioritized according to a priorities set and if there is no conflict, the building resources are controlled by the building level network node (18, Fig. 1) directly according to the zone data (38a, Fig. 1) at step 106.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the comparison of time information to determine whether or not to refrain or attempt to schedule an item within a schedule as well as schedule a time slot having a duration equal to the duration for the item as taught by Rhodes with the system as taught by Miller and Zhang with the motivation of providing an improved activity definition scheduling system that allows resources to be scheduled in flexible time increments and repetitively for any selected day or days of the year or years (see: Rhodes: column 1, lines 49-53).

As per claim 2, in Miller an item is incorporated into the schedule dynamically in response to its generation at the application (Col. 3, Ln. 39-48 and Figures 4-6).

As per claim 3, in Miller the schedule comprises one or more cells and the location for the item is within a particular cell, the scheduling engine operable to determine the cell for the item and determine the location for the item within the cell according to the time information (Figures 4-6).

As per claim 4, in Miller the location for the item within the cell is determined according to a percentage of the width of the cell corresponding to the time information (Figures 4-6).

As per claim 5, in Miller the schedule criteria are received from a user in association with a schedule request (Figures 4-6 and Col. 3, Ln. 39-48).

As per claim 6, in Miller the schedule criteria comprises one or more activity categories, the scheduling engine operable to determine an activity category for the item based on the associated activity and determine whether the activity category for the item belongs to at least one of the activity categories of the schedule criteria to satisfy the schedule criteria (Figures 4-6 and Col. 3, Ln. 23-61).

As per claims 7 and 14, in Miller is silent with respect to the language (HTML) or platform (web server and web page), which is used to create the calendar. However, the examiner takes Official Notice that these are features well-known in the art. At the time of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use HTML because of the user friendliness of ease of use of the language. Further, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to create a calendar using HTML on a web page and host the calendar on a web server in order to range a larger audience.

As per claims 10 and 16, in Miller the scheduling engine is further operable to generate an alt tag for the item, the alt tag comprising information concerning the item for display in response to the user selecting an image associated with the item (Figure 4-the alt tag in Miller is either the "Fax" tag or the "Print" tag among others).

As per claim 11, in Miller the scheduling engine is further operable to incorporate information received from the application concerning the item into the alt tag for the item (Figure 5).

As per claim 12, in Miller the system is operable to generate the schedule for display to a plurality of users substantially simultaneously (Figures 4-6 and Col. 2, Ln. 10-Col. 3, Ln. 15).

As per claim 17, which is directed towards a method of generating application-driven scheduling systems, Miller teaches a step to receive at least one schedule item and associated time information from at least one application (Col. 2, Ln. 58-67; Col. 3, Ln. 20-48 and Figures 4-6), a step to generate the schedule containing the item (Col. 3, Ln. 49-61 and Figures 4-6) and a step of rendering the schedule for display to at least one user or a plurality of users (Col. 2, Ln. 10 – Col. 3, Ln. 15; Col. 3, Ln. 49-61 and Figures 4-6).

The electronic calendar of Miller fails to teach a step of determining whether the time information for the item satisfies the schedule criteria comprising the time period schedule criterion by comparing at least the required time period for the received item with the time period specified in the time period schedule criterion and a step to determine a location for the item within a schedule according to the time information (if the inputted time information satisfies the schedule criteria). However, the above mentioned features are well-known in the art as evidenced by Zhang, which teaches a step of determining whether the time information satisfies

the schedule criteria and a step of determining a location for the item within a schedule according to the time information (if the inputted information satisfies the schedule criteria) (Col. 67, Ln. 1-16). At the time of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to add this feature to the electronic calendar of Miller with the expectation of providing an electronic calendar better suited for multiple individuals at different locations (Zhang, Col. 1, Ln. 14-18).

Miller and Zhang fail to teach:

--the claimed access one or more schedule criteria comprising at least a time period schedule criterion specifying a time period spanning a plurality of schedule time slots;

--the claimed if the time information comprising the required time period for the received item satisfies the schedule criteria comprising the time period schedule criterion in that the required time period for the received item falls within the time period specified in the time period schedule criterion, attempt to determine a location for the item within a schedule according to the information;

--the claimed if the time information comprising the required time period for the received item does not satisfy the schedule criteria comprising the time period schedule criterion in that the required time period for the received item falls outside the time period specified in the time period schedule criterion, refrain from attempting to determine a location for the item within the schedule according to the information; and

--the claimed if the information comprising the required time period for the received item satisfies the schedule criteria at least in part by assigning the item to one of the plurality of time

slots within the time period specified in the time period schedule criterion, the time slot having a

duration equal to the duration for the item.

Rhodes teaches a computer based equipment scheduling system using activity data and

zone data (see: column 3, lines 3-25). Rhodes further teaches that the system determines whether

or not there is a conflict in the zone mode operation with another zone schedule at step 128 (see:

column 9, lines 32-34). If the system determines that there is a conflict, the zone mode schedules

are prioritized and if there is no conflict, the building resources are controlled by the building

level network node (18, Fig. 1) directly according to the zone data (38a, Fig. 1) at step 106.

The obviousness of combining the teachings Rhodes with the system as taught by Miller

and Zhang are discussed in the rejection of claim 1, and incorporated herein.

As per claim 18, in Miller an item is incorporated into the schedule dynamically in

response to its generation at the application (Col. 3, Ln. 39-48 and Figures 4-6).

As per claim 19, in Miller the schedule comprises one or more cells and the location for

the item is within a particular cell, the scheduling engine operable to determine the cell for the

item and determine the location for the item within the cell according to the time information

(Figures 4-6).

As per claim 20, in Miller the location for the item within the cell is determined

according to a percentage of the width of the cell corresponding to the time information (Figures

4-6).

As per claim 21, in Miller the schedule criteria are received from a user in association

with a schedule request (Figures 4-6 and Col. 3, Ln. 39-48).

As per claim 22, in Miller the item is associated with an activity and schedule criteria comprises one or more activity categories, the scheduling engine operable to determine an activity category for the item based on the associated activity and determine whether the activity category for the item belongs to at least one of the activity categories of the schedule criteria to satisfy the schedule (Figures 4-6 and Col. 3, Ln. 23-61).

As per claims 23, in Miller is silent with respect to the language (HTML) or platform (web server and web page), which is used to create the calendar. However, the examiner takes Official Notice that these are features well-known in the art. At the time of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use HTML because of the user friendliness of ease of use of the language. Further, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to create a calendar using HTML on a web page and host the calendar on a web server in order to range a larger audience.

As per claims 26, in Miller the scheduling engine is further operable to generate an alt tag for the item, the alt tag comprising information concerning the item for display in response to the user selecting an image associated with the item (Figure 4-the alt tag in Miller is either the "Fax" tag or the "Print" tag among others).

As per claim 27, in Miller the scheduling engine is further operable to incorporate information received from the application concerning the item into the alt tag for the item (Figure 5).

As per claim 28, in Miller the system is operable to generate the schedule for display to a plurality of users substantially simultaneously (Figures 4-6 and Col. 2, Ln. 10-Col. 3, Ln. 15).

As per claims 31-36 and 39-41, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claims 2-7, 10-11 and 28, respectively.

6.   Claims 8-9, 15, 24-25 and 37-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Number 5,899,979 to Miller in view of US Patent Number 6,016,478 to Zhang as applied to claims 1, 13, and 17 above, respectively, and in further view of US Patent Number 6,385,591 to Mankoff.

Miller and Zhang fail to teach or suggest a link to an image associated with an item such that the rendering engine is operable to use the link to retrieve the image for display at the location of the item. However, the above mentioned feature is well-known in the art as evidenced by Mankoff who teaches a link to an image such that clicking the image retrieves the image for display at the location of the item (or link) (Figure 3 and Col. 3, Ln. 50-67).

At the time of the invention, one skilled in the art would have been motivated to add this feature in order to provide a means to automatically download images and information as recited in Mankoff (Mankoff, Col. 1, Ln. 51-55).

As per claims 37-38, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claims 8-9.

7.   Claims 42-43, 45-46, 48-49 and 51-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S Patent No. 6,101,480 to Conmy et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,073,110 to Rhodes.

As per claims 42-43, 45-46, 48-49 and 51-52, Conmy et al. teaches electronic calendar and automated scheduling techniques that uses a busy time creating unit (304, Fig. 2) which creates a list of busy times (reads on "non-time") for all users (see: column 4, lines 56-59).

Conmy et al. further teaches a fit determination unit (306, Fig. 2) to determine whether the requested time complies with the busy time file (see: column 4, lines 60-62).

Conmy et al. fails to explicit teaches if the non-time information does not satisfy the schedule criteria, refrain from determining the location for the item regardless of whether a time slot in the schedule corresponding to the time information is available.

Rhodes teaches a computer based equipment scheduling system using activity data and zone data (see: column 3, lines 3-25). Rhodes further teaches that the system determines whether or not there is a conflict in the zone mode operation with another zone schedule at step 128 (see: column 9, lines 32-34). If the system determines that there is a conflict, the zone mode schedules are prioritized according to a priorities set and if there is no conflict, the building resources are controlled by the building level network node (18, Fig. 1) directly according to the zone data (38a, Fig. 1) at step 106.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include if the non-time information does not satisfy the schedule criteria, refrain from determining the location for the item regardless of whether a time slot in the schedule corresponding to the time information is available as taught by Rhodes within the system as taught by Conmy et al. with the motivation of providing an improved activity definition scheduling system that allows resources to be scheduled in flexible time increments and repetitively for any selected day or days of the year or years (see: Rhodes: column 1, lines 49-53).

8.   Claims 44, 47, 50 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

U.S Patent No. 6,101,480 to Conmy et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,073,110 to Rhodes in view of

U.S. Patent no. 5,233,533 to Edstrom et al.

As per claim 44, 47, 50 and 53, Conmy et al. and Rhodes fail to teaches the claimed non-

time criterion comprises an inventory threshold.

Edstrom et al. teaches a scheduling software device with a supporting software program

which employs a combination of backward and forward scheduling methods to schedule the

sequence of events required to manufacture an item that includes orders in an order file (67, Fig.

1a) arranged according to types of demands such as inventory at a predefined threshold (see:

column 4, lines 27-38).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it

obvious to include the scheduling software device that includes orders such as inventory at a

predefined threshold as taught by Edstrom et al. within the system as taught by Conmy et al. with

the motivation of enabling day-to-day operation of a business to be time, space and resource

efficient (see: Edstrom et al.: column 3, lines 24-26).

Response to Arguments

9.   Applicant's arguments filed 8/12/04 have been fully considered but they are not

persuasive. Applicant's arguments will be addressed hereinbelow in the order in which they

appear in the response filed 8/12/04.

(A) In the remarks, Applicants argue in substance that (1) the proposed combination of

references fail to meet the limitations recited in Applicant's claims; (2) the Official Notice Taken

in rejecting claims 7 and 14 is improper; and (3) the proposed combination of references is

improper.

(B) In response to Applicant arguments that, (1) the proposed combination of references

fail to meet the limitations recited in Applicant's claims. It is respectfully submits that the

Examiner has applied new prior art to the amended features of claims 1, 13, 17, 19 and 30 at the

present time. As such, Applicant's remarks with regard to the application of Miller, Zhang and/or

Mankoff to the amended claims are moot in light of the inclusion of the teachings of Rhodes,

Conmy, and Edstrom addressed in the above Office Action.

(C) In response to Applicant arguments that, (2) the Official Notice Taken in rejecting

claims 7 and 14 is improper. The Examiner hereby directs Applicant's attention to U.S. Patent

No. 6,064,977 to Haverstock et al. (cited herewith), which clearly evidences that schedules

generated in Hypertext Markup language format as part of a web page as far back as 1998, which

is before the filing of Applicant's present application (note especially col. 2, lines 52-65 of

Haverstock et al.). As such, the knowledge and use of Hypertext Markup language format as

part of a web page, in general, has clearly existed in the art prior to Applicant's claimed invention

and the courts have held that even if a patent does not specifically disclose a particular element,

said element being within the knowledge of a skilled artisan, the patent taken in combination

with that knowledge, would put the artisan in possession of the claimed invention. *In re Graves*,

36 USPQ 2d 1697 (Fed. Cir. 1995).

(D) In response to Applicant arguments that, (3) the proposed combination of references

is improper. The Examiner respectfully submits that obviousness is determined on the basis of

the evidence as a whole and the relative persuasiveness of the arguments. See *In re Oetiker*, 977

F.2d 1443, 1445, 24 USPQ2d 1443, 1444 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *In re Hedges*, 783 F.2d 1038, 1039,

228 USPQ 685,686 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *In re Piasecki*, 745 F.2d 1468, 1472, 223 USPQ 785,788

(Fed. Cir. 1984); and *In re Rinehart*, 531 F.2d 1048, 1052, 189 USPQ 143,147 (CCPA 1976).

Using this standard, the Examiner respectfully submits that he has at least satisfied the burden of

presenting a *prima facie* case of obviousness, since he has presented evidence of corresponding

claim elements in the prior art and has expressly articulated the combinations and the

motivations for combinations that fairly suggest Applicant's claimed invention (see: paper dated

5/12/04).

As such, the Examiner recognizes that references cannot be arbitrarily altered or modified

and that there must be some reason why one skilled in the art would be motivated to make the

proposed modifications. However, although the Examiner agrees that the motivation or

suggestion to make modifications must be articulated, it is respectfully contended that there is no

requirement that the motivation to make modifications must be expressly articulated <u>within the</u>

<u>references themselves</u>. References are evaluated by what they suggest to one versed in the art,

rather than by their specific disclosures, *In re Bozek*, 163 USPQ 545 (CCPA 1969).

The Examiner is concerned that Applicant apparently ignores the mandate of the

numerous court decisions supporting the position given above. <u>The issue of obviousness is not</u>

<u>determined by what the references expressly state but by what they would reasonably suggest to</u>

<u>one of ordinary skill in the art</u>, as supported by decisions in *In re DeLisle* 406 Fed 1326, 160

USPQ 806; *In re Kell, Terry and Davies* 208 USPQ 871; and *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 1074, 5

USPQ 2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988) (citing *In re Lalu*, 747 F.2d 703, 705, 223 USPQ 1257,

1258 (Fed. Cir. 1988)). Further, it was determined in *In re Lamberti et al*, 192 USPQ 278

(CCPA) that:

> (i) <u>obviousness does not require absolute predictability</u>;
> (ii) <u>non-preferred embodiments of prior art must also be considered</u>; and
> (iii) the question is not <u>express</u> teaching of references, but what they would suggest.

Further, according to *In re Jacoby*, 135 USPQ 317 (CCPA 1962), the skilled artisan is presumed to know something more about the art than only what is disclosed in the applied references. In *In re Bode*, 193 USPQ 12 (CCPA 1977), every reference relies to some extent on knowledge of persons skilled in the art to complement that which is disclosed therein.

According to *Ex parte Berins*, 168 USPQ 374 (Bd. Appeals), there is no statutory limitation as to the number of references that may be used to demonstrate obviousness...not what references expressly state but what they would reasonably suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art. In *In re Conrad*, 169 USPQ 170 (CCPA), obviousness is not based on <u>express</u> suggestion, but what references taken collectively would suggest.

As such, it is respectfully submitted that an explanation based on logic and sound scientific reasoning of one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention that support a holding of obviousness has been adequately provided by the motivations and reasons indicated by the Examiner both in the prior Office Action, *Ex parte Levengood*, 28 USPQ2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter., 4/22/93).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this
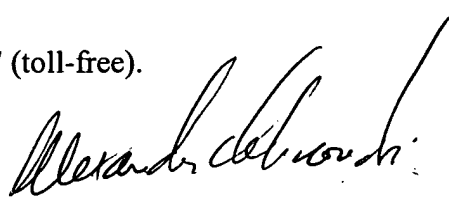
final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Robert W. Morgan whose telephone number is (703) 605-4441.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon - Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on (703) 305-9588. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ALEXANDER KALINOWSKI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

rwm